

## Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 EB-07 SY-05 USSS-00

A-01 OC-05 CCO-00 NEAE-00 /081 W

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O P 091025Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3633

TREASURY WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT PRIORITY

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (SIMON, WILLIAM E.)

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF SECRETARY SIMON

REF: (A) STATE 25051, (B) JIDDA 0832, (C) JIDDA 0619

1. DCM HORAN ACCCOMPANIED BY ECON COUNSELOR DANIELS AND DIRECTOR USREP/JECOR, BRUCE MORGAN, CALLED ON DEPUTY CHIEF OF ROYAL PROTOCOL MANSUR AL KHURAIJI FEBRUARY 8 ABOUT SECRETARY SIMON'S VISIT. ALSO PRESENT WERE ADMIN COUNSELOR SWEDENBURG AND FIRST SECRETARY MCARTHUR.

2. KHURAIJI ASKED IF EMBASSY HAD BEEN INFORMED OF PALACE'S REPLY ON PROPOSED SIMON VISIT. WHEN TOLD IT HAD NOT BEEN, KHURAIJI EXPLAINED THAT UPON REVIEW OF SCHEDULES OF KING,

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CROWN PRINCE FAHD, AND MINISTER OF FINANCE, SAG HAD DETER-

MINED APRIL 3 WAS THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE FOR MEETING WITH KING, CROWN PRINCE AND CONVENING OF JOINT COMMISSION. HE SAID A NUMBER OF UNCOORDINATED VISITS HAD RECENTLY TAKEN PLACE IN WHICH INDIVIDUAL MINISTERS HAD ON THEIR OWN COMMITTED OTHER MINISTRIES AND EVEN THE PALACE TO MEETINGS WITH VISITING DIGNITARIES. THIS HAD CAUSED MUCH CONFUSION. AS A RESULT, ALL PROPOSALS FOR VISITS WERE NOW BEING RUN THROUGH PALACE TO ASSURE THEY DID NOT CONFLICT WITH EACH OTHER, AND THAT DATES WOULD BE AGREEABLE ALSO TO KING AND CROWN PRINCE. WITH REGARD TO SIMON VISIT, HE REPEATED THAT THE EARLIEST THAT VISIT COULD TAKE PLACE WOULD BE APRIL 3.

3. DCM AND MORGAN INDICATED THAT SECRETARY SIMON'S SCHEDULE HAD BEEN DISCUSSED EARLIER WITH SAG OFFICIALS, AND THAT MARCH 2-4 DATES HAD THEN APPEARED SUITABLE. THEY EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT SUCH A LONG-PLANNED AND COMPLICATED VISIT COULD BE RESCHEDULED. KHURAIJI SAID AGAIN THAT AFTER CONSIDERING TOTAL DEMANDS UPON SAG, APRIL 3 DATE HAD EMERGED AS THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE ONE. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY, HE SAID VISIT NOT NECESSARILY CONFINED TO APRIL 3. IT COULD CARRY ON TO APRIL 4 IF LONGER PERIOD BETTER SUITED MR. SIMON'S CONVENIENCE. HE ASKED THAT DIWAN BE INFORMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OF USG'S WISHES. SAG WOULD OF COURSE CONSIDER DATES SUBSEQUENT TO APRIL 3-4.

4. KHURAIJI WENT ON TO SAY THAT PRESSURES IN RIYADH ON PALACE AND SENIOR-LEVEL SAG OFFICIALS WERE GREATER THAN ANY TIME IN HIS MEMORY. THE DIWAN HAD ON ITS SCHEDULE A STEADY SUCCESSION OF CHIEFS OF STATE AND PRIME MINISTERS AND THIS WAS WHY APRIL 3 WAS BEST THAT COULD BE DONE. DCM THANKED KHURAIJI FOR HIS FRANKNESS. HE SAID WE WOULD SEEK GUIDANCE FROM WASHINGTON AND WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH MFA AND DIWAN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

5. FOREIGN MINISTRY CHIEF OF PROTOCOL PASSED SIMILAR INFORMATION TO THE AMBASSADOR FEBRUARY 8.

6. COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION. WE AGREE THAT THE FORE-GOING MIGHT BE REGARDED AS A SIGN THE SAG IS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC

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ABOUT THE VISIT. IF TREASURY CALLS THEY SHOULD NOT SPECULATE ON THE PHONE ON THE REASONS WHY THE SAG REQUESTED THE POST-PONEMENT. THIS POINT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED ALREADY TO MORGAN. THE REASONS THE SAG GAVE ARE ON THE FACE OF IT SUFFICIENT AND SATISFACTORY. MY RECOMMENDATION TO STATE AND TREASURY IS THAT IF POSSIBLE SECRETARY SIMON TRY TO MAKE THE APRIL 3 DATE.

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** MINISTERIAL VISITS  
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